

January 30, 1970

Passed on File

Has City Govt. 2-26

SENATE FILE 1162

By COMMITTEE ON COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

Passed Senate, Date *2-5-70* Passed House, Date *3-20-70*

Vote: Ayes *58* Nays *0* Vote: Ayes *92* Nays *0*

Approved *April 2, 1970*

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to certification of nominees whose names are
2 to appear on the general election ballot, and to requests
3 for and distribution of absentee ballots for primary and
4 general elections.

5 *Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

6 Section 1. Section forty-three point seventy-three (43.73),
7 Code 1966, is hereby amended by striking from line one (1) the
8 word "forty-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the word
9 "fifty-five".

10 Sec. 2. Section fifty-three point two (53.2), Code 1966,
11 is hereby amended by striking from line four (4) the word
12 "twenty" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "forty".

13 Sec. 3. Section fifty-three point thirty-nine (53.39), Code
14 1966, is hereby amended as follows:

15 1. By striking from line fifteen (15) the word "thirty"
16 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "forty".

17 2. By striking from line eighteen (18) the word "thirty"
18 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "forty".

19 Sec. 4. Section fifty-three point forty (53.40), Code 1966,
20 as amended by chapter ninety-four (94), Acts of the Sixty-third
21 General Assembly, First Session, is hereby further amended as
22 follows:

23 1. By striking from line eleven (11) the word "fifty-five"
24 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "seventy".

25 2. By striking from line thirty-seven (37) the word "thir-

- 1 tieth" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "fortieth".
- 2 Sec. 5. Section fifty-three point forty-two (53.42), Code
- 3 1966, is hereby amended by striking from line seven (7) the
- 4 word "thirty" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "forty".

EXPLANATION

Chapter 90 of the Acts of the Sixty-third General Assembly, First Session, which returned the date of the primary election from September to June, did not amend certain sections which were amended at the time the primary was changed from June to September in 1965. This bill will restore four of these sections to their pre-1965 form, thus requiring (1) that the secretary of state certify to county auditors the nominees whose names are to appear on the general election ballot 55, rather than 45, days before the general election; (2) that official ballots be available for transmittal to qualified electors serving in the armed forces 40, rather than 30, days prior to a primary or general election; (3) that the county auditor mail absentee ballots to qualified electors serving in the armed forces 40, rather than 30, days prior to the primary or general election, as the case may be; and (4) that the county auditor have available in his office 40, rather than 30, days prior to any primary or general election, ballots for voting by qualified electors who will be absent on election day by reason of service in the armed forces. The bill also changes from 55 to the original 70 days the maximum period of time prior to the general election during which an absentee ballot may be requested by or on behalf of a qualified elector serving in the armed forces.

In addition, the bill permits county auditors to begin mailing absentee ballots to qualified electors other than members of the armed forces at the same time that ballots are to be mailed to members of the armed forces. Absentee ballots are occasionally requested by civilians working or traveling overseas, and it often requires as much time for absentee ballots to be sent to and returned by such voters as is required for ballots to reach and be returned by members of the armed forces serving overseas.